

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 0100

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BFOL, RO

SUBJECT: SIKORSKY HELICOPTER AND MEDIUM-RANGE JET CONTRACT

REF: USDOC 0200

1. CONCERNING HELICOPTERS, IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY, AERONAUTIC GROUP, AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF CHANGE IN SITUATION IN PAST FEW WEEKS. BOTH COMPANIES, SIKORSKY AND FRENCH SNIAS, STILL IN COMPETITION. FINAL PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN TENDERED TO FTO, AND ROMANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO LEADERSHIP FOR FINAL DECISION. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS STILL FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT DECISION WILL BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE END OF JANUARY. (DEP. FOREIGN MIN STANCIU SAID SAME TO CHARGE DURING CEAUSESCU VISIT TO U.S.).

2. CONCERNING MEDIUM-RANGE JETS WE HAVE IMPRESSION NOW THAT FINAL DECISION IS BEING DELAYED AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT ENTIRE PROJECT MAY BE UNDER RECONSIDERATION PRIMARILY DUE TO FUEL CRISIS AND IMPACT ON WORLD MARKET FOR TRANSPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT DECISION ON HELICOPTER DEAL COULD ALSO BE DELAYED FURTHER AS WELL IF LEADERSHIP SHOULD FEEL THAT BROADER STUDIES ARE REQUIRED ON EFFECTS OF ENERGY CRISIS OR EVEN ARAB POLICY TOWARD ROMANIA - THIS RELATES NOT ONLY TO FUEL NEEDS BUT TO CALCULATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS. THIS MIGHT HAPPEN ON ONE OR BOTH PROJECTS EVEN IF STUDY SHOULD ULTIMATELY SHOW THAT OVERALL EFFECT ON ROMANIA WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE, OR EVEN FAVORABLE ON BALANCE.

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3. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THESE PENDING CONTRACTS CLOSELY
AND WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.
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